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DEC 11 2006

Appl. No. 10/752,402
Response to Restriction Requirement dated October 13, 2006
Amendment dated December 11, 2006

PATENT
Docket No. 13067-004001
(J-CN4001)

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (original) A vented bag comprising:
a bag body having side walls defining a cavity therebetween for holding material therein and having an opening for accessing the cavity; and
a reclosable closure disposed at the bag opening and comprising
extruded male and female interlocking profiles extending along opposing sides of the opening and constructed to releasably interlock; and
an extruded valve flange extending from one side of the closure to engage an opposing surface of the closure when the profiles are interlocked;
the flange and opposing surface constructed to separate in response to pressure in said cavity for venting the bag with the profiles interlocked.
2. (currently amended) The vented bag of claim 1 wherein the closure includes a first set of interlocking profiles on ~~one~~ a cavity side of the valve flange and a second set of interlocking profiles on ~~an opposite~~ an opening side of the valve flange.
3. (original) The vented bag of claim 1 wherein the valve flange has a non-sealing surface defining a groove extending into the flange along the length thereof, the groove defining a reduced bending stiffness region of the flange.
4. (currently amended) The vented bag of claim 1 wherein one of the extruded male and female interlocking profiles is segmented to define ~~the~~ a vent passage between longitudinally spaced-apart portions thereof, the segmented profile defining arcuate notches therethrough.

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5. (currently amended) The vented bag of claim 4 wherein ~~the segmented profile is the~~ female interlocking profile is the segmented profile.

6-15. (canceled)

16. (new) The vented bag of claim 2, wherein the valve flange has a non-sealing surface defining a plurality of deflection radii extending into the flange along the length thereof, the deflection radii allowing the valve flange to deflect and form an airtight seal against a sealing seat on the opposing surface of the closure.

17. (new) The vented bag of claim 2, wherein the valve flange has a non-sealing surface defining a single large radius extending into the flange along the length thereof, the single large radius allowing the valve flange to deflect and form an airtight seal against a sealing seat on the opposing surface of the closure.

18. (new) The vented bag of claim 2, wherein one of the male and female interlocking profiles of the first set of interlocking profiles is segmented to define a first vent passage between longitudinally spaced-apart portions thereof, with the first set of interlocking profiles interlocked.

19. (new) The vented bag of claim 18, wherein the female interlocking profile is the segmented profile defining the first vent passage.

20. (new) The vented bag of claim 18, wherein one of the male and female interlocking profiles of the second set of interlocking profiles is segmented to define a second vent passage between longitudinally spaced-apart portions thereof, with the second set of interlocking profiles interlocked.

21. (new) The vented bag of claim 20, wherein the female interlocking profile is the segmented profile defining the second vent passage.

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22. (new) The vented bag of claim 18, wherein a second vent passage is defined through a side of the closure between the valve flange and the second set of interlocking profiles.

23. (new) A vented bag comprising:

a bag body having side walls defining a cavity therebetween for holding material therein and having an opening for accessing the cavity; and

a resealable closure disposed at the bag opening and comprising

a first set of interlocking profiles constructed to releasably interlock and extending along opposing sides of the opening, wherein one of the interlocking profiles of the first set of interlocking profiles is segmented to define a first air vent passage between longitudinally spaced-apart portions thereof, with the first set of profiles interlocked;

a second set of interlocking profiles constructed to releasably interlock and extending along opposing sides of the opening on an opening side of the first set of interlocking profiles; and

an extruded valve flange disposed between the first set of interlocking profiles and the second set of interlocking profiles, wherein the valve flange extends from one side of the closure to engage an opposing surface of the closure when the closure is occluded, and wherein the valve flange and opposing surface are constructed to separate in response to pressure in the cavity for venting the bag with the closure occluded.

24. (new) The vented bag of claim 23, wherein a female interlocking profile of the first set of interlocking profiles is segmented.

25. (new) The vented bag of claim 23, wherein the valve flange has a non-sealing surface defining a groove extending into the flange along the length thereof, the groove defining a reduced bending stiffness region of the flange.

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26. (new) The vented bag of claim 23, wherein the valve flange has a non-sealing surface defining a plurality of deflection radii extending into the flange along the length thereof, the deflection radii allowing the valve flange to deflect and form an airtight seal against a sealing seat on the opposing surface of the closure.

27. (new) The vented bag of claim 23, wherein the valve flange has a non-sealing surface defining a single large radius extending into the flange along the length thereof, the single large radius allowing the valve flange to deflect and form an airtight seal against a sealing seat on the opposing surface of the closure.

28. (new) The vented bag of claim 23, wherein one of the interlocking profiles of the second set of interlocking profiles is segmented to define a second air vent passage between longitudinally spaced-apart portions thereof, with the second set of profiles interlocked.

29. (new) The vented bag of claim 28, wherein the second vent passage is defined through a female interlocking profile of the second set of interlocking profiles.

30. (new) The vented bag of claim 23, wherein a second vent passage is defined through a side of the closure between the valve flange and the second set of interlocking profiles.